

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A workflow management system with continuous status management, comprising:
 - a first apparatus adapted to detect fuzzy process definitions;
 - a second apparatus adapted to control activity stages in a workflow for the purpose of processing the process definitions; and
 - means for evaluating the process definitions for each process instance, the means for evaluating including a functional stage for initiating an activity associated with an activity stage and reporting the state of the activity to the second apparatus.
2. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses includes an interference machine.
3. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses includes an interference mechanism, arranged in an interference machine and in contact with a process instance manager, adapted to forward a signal corresponding to the respective instruction for activities of the activity stages to the process instance manager.
4. (Previously Presented) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the means for evaluating includes a control stage, supplied with an activity threshold by an evaluation stage for the process status and connected to the functional stage for carrying out the activities, and wherein the functional stage is adapted to forward a signal corresponding to the respective state of the activities of the activity stages to the process instance manager.

5. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to deliver instructions to activities of the activity stages with an associated continuous variable, the instructions being compared with an activity threshold for the control stage and providing corresponding "fuzzy" worklists for each activity of the activity stages, which reports its state to the at least one apparatus in the form of continuous variables.
6. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses includes causal networks.
7. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to operate on the basis of the laws of fuzzy logic.
8. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to operate on the basis of the laws of probability-based modeling.
9. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to operate on the basis of the laws of general weighting.
10. (Previously Presented) A method for implementing a workflow with continuous status management through fuzzy process definitions, comprising:
 - detecting fuzzy process definitions;
 - controlling activity stages in a workflow for the purpose of processing the process definitions; and
 - evaluating the process definitions for each process instance, the evaluating including at least initiating an activity associated with an activity stage and reporting the state of the activity to be used in controlling the activity stages.
11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed using at least one of fuzzy rules and relations.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of fuzzy logic.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of probability-based modeling.

14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of control systems with priority weighting.

15. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the apparatuses includes an interference mechanism, arranged in an interference machine and in contact with a process instance manager, adapted to forward a signal corresponding to the respective instruction for activities of the activity stages to the process instance manager.

16. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to deliver instructions to activities of the activity stages with an associated continuous variable, the instructions being compared with an activity threshold for the control stage and providing corresponding "fuzzy" worklists for each activity of the activity stages, which reports its state to the at least one apparatus in the form of continuous variables.

17. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to deliver instructions to activities of the activity stages with an associated continuous variable, the instructions being compared with an activity threshold for the control stage and providing corresponding "fuzzy" worklists for each activity of the activity stages, which reports its state to the at least one apparatus in the form of continuous variables.

18. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to deliver instructions to activities of the activity stages with an associated continuous variable, the instructions being compared with an activity threshold for the control stage and providing corresponding "fuzzy" worklists for each activity of the activity stages, which reports its state to the at least one apparatus in the form of continuous variables.

19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of fuzzy logic.

20. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of probability-based modeling.

21. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of fuzzy logic.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of fuzzy logic.

23. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of probability-based modeling.

24. (Previously Presented) A workflow management system with continuous status management, comprising:

means for detecting fuzzy process definitions;

means for controlling activity stages in a workflow for the purpose of processing the process definitions; and

means for evaluating the process definitions for each process instance, the means for evaluating including a functional stage for initiating an activity associated with an activity stage and reporting the state of the activity to the means for controlling.

25. (New) The workflow management system of claim 1, wherein the first and second apparatuses are separate and discrete apparatuses.

26. (New) The workflow management system of claim 1, wherein the second apparatus is adapted to control activity stages in a workflow for the purpose of processing the process definitions independent of human intervention.